

# Guildford Rural District.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### Medical Officer of Health for 1923.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to present to you my twenty-third Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the District.

This Report is drawn up on the lines set out in the Ministry of Health's circular (dated December 15th, 1923) as to the contents and arrangement of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

The health of the district was again, on the whole, satisfactory last year. The death rate was 9.2, as compared with 11.6 for England and Wales, and the infantile mortality

only 44, as compared with 69 for the whole country. The Birth Rate was only 14.7. The England and Wales rate was 19.7.

There was only comparatively slight prevalence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Outbreaks of Measles and Whooping Cough occurred in a few localities.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. C. PIERCE.

LONGDOWN ROAD,

GUILDFORD,

March 31st, 1924.

### (1) General Statistics.

Area 53,331 acres. Population (Census 1921), 21,879. Population, 1923 (Registrar-General), 21,350.

Number of inhabited houses, 1921: 4,453.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921: 4,648.

Rateable value: £162,894. Assessable value: Under Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, £153,112; Ditto, 1923, £148,221.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £638.

### (2) Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Births { Legitimate .. 300 156 144 } Illegitimate .. 15 10 5				Birth rate .. 14.7
Deaths, Civilians only .. 197 90 107.				Death rate .. 9.2

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth: From Sepsis, none; from other causes, none.

Deaths of infants under one year of age (per 1,000 births): Legitimate 36, illegitimate 200; total 44.

Deaths from Measles (all ages): None.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages): None.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age): 2.

England and Wales Rates, 1923: Birth Rate 19.7; Death Rate 11.6; Infant Mortality 69.

Guildford Rural District: Birth Rate 14.7; Death Rate 9.2; Infant Mortality 44.

The other deaths recorded in the district were from the following causes:—

Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer	...	...	...	...	27
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	13
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	16
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	8
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	14
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	12
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Ulcer of Stomach	...	...	...	...	2
Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	6
Congenital Debility and Malformation,					
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	6
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2
Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	7
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	57
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	2

The number of deaths (197) was considerably lower than in the previous year (230), when, however, it was above the average for the district.

## (3) Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease.		Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	... ...	17	17	2
Scarlet Fever	... ...	36	31	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	... ...	2	2	1
Puerperal Fever	... ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	... ...	9	—	—
Other Diseases generally notifiable—				
Encephalitis	... ...	1	—	—
Erysipelas	... ...	3	—	—
Malaria	... ...	1	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
34—45	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	8	2	1	2	5	1	1

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.* — Only two mild cases were notified. Both were treated at home, and recovered with vision unimpaired.

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was two/nine.

#### (4) Causes of Sickness.

There was a little prevalence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. The cases of Scarlet Fever mostly occurred in the parish of Albury, where an outbreak occurred in the spring and a recrudescence in the autumn. A few cases also were reported from Shere, Pirbright and Compton. An outbreak of Diphtheria occurred in a "condemned" house in the parish of Worplesdon in July, and a fresh outbreak in September. A fatal case (the infection being imported) occurred in the parish of Shere. The child's grandmother, aged 68, contracted the disease in a severe form—a most unusual occurrence.

The schools had to be closed at Albury, Holmbury, and Shackleford, owing to the prevalence of Measles amongst the school children; at Perry Hill, owing to outbreaks of Diphtheria and Whooping Cough; and at Albury for Scarlet Fever.

#### (5) Summary (for reference) of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions Available for the District.

*Professional Nursing in the Home.* (a) General.  
(b) For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles, etc.

The whole of the district is well served by the Nurses employed by the various District Nursing Associations. All these Associations are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, which is partly subsidised by the County Council.

The services of the District Nurses (who also act as Midwives) are available up to their capacity for the nursing of cases of Pneumonia following Measles and Whooping Cough, and the County Nursing Association have promised to provide additional help, if available, at the expense of the District Council.

The County Council also allow their Health Visitors (of whom there are four partly engaged in the Rural District) to visit cases of Measles and Tuberculosis.

*Midwives.*—There are no midwives employed or subsidised by the District Council.

Thirteen midwives gave notice to the County Council (the

Local Supervising Authority) of their intention to practise during 1924, which is four less than in 1923.

The County Nursing Association, whose headquarters are in Guildford, are also engaged in the training of midwives, with the aid of a special grant from the County Council.

*Clinics and Treatment Centres.*—Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (for Consultations) provided by the County Council are held fortnightly at Peaslake (Shere parish), Merrow, and Send, and at which one of the County Assistant Medical Officers attends.

There is also a Centre held weekly in the Borough of Godalming, available also for residents in the surrounding parishes, and a few mothers and babies attend the Borough of Guildford Centre by arrangement.

There are no Day Nurseries in the district.

A School Clinic is provided by the County Council in Godalming, which is available for children from the adjacent parts of the Rural District. Children from the rural areas around Guildford are treated at the County Council Dispensary in Farnham Road, Guildford, and at the County Hospital.

A Tuberculosis Centre for the district is conveniently situated at Farnham Road, Guildford, and is maintained by the County Council. The Tuberculosis Officer attends every Tuesday and Friday mornings.

The County Council also provides a Venereal Disease Clinic at the County Hospital, Guildford, for men and women every Tuesday evening.

#### *Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.*

(1) *Tuberculosis.*—The only hospital is the County Branch of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children suffering from Hip Disease, which is situated at East Clandon, and to which children are occasionally sent from the district.

(2) *Maternity.*—There are none in the district; but one has been opened by the County Nursing Association at Redhill, to which cases are sent from the district.

(3) *Children*.—The only one is that at East Clandon above mentioned.

(4) *Fever*.—A Hospital is provided by the Guildford, Godalming and Woking Joint Hospital Board at Woodbridge, Guildford, and contains 72 beds on the basis of the Ministry's standard of floor space, viz., 44 for Scarlet Fever, 22 for Diphtheria, and 6 for Typhoid.

(5) *Small Pox*.—A hospital of 10 beds is provided by the Joint Board at Whitmoor Common, Worplesdon.

Another hospital of 22 beds is provided near East Clandon by the Surrey Small Pox Hospital Committee for cases of Small Pox arising in the other parts of the County.

(6) *Others*.—The Royal Surrey County Hospital at Guildford is centrally situated for the district, although the accommodation has often proved to be inadequate. Additional ward accommodation and a new out-patient department are to be opened this year (1924).

There is no local institution (other than the Infirmary) for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children. Urgent cases are sent by the County Council to the Waltham House Hostel for Unmarried Mothers at Epsom.

*Ambulance Facilities*.—(a) For infectious diseases the Joint Hospital Board possesses a motor ambulance for ordinary cases of infectious disease, and a horse ambulance for any cases of Small Pox that may arise.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases the district is well served by the Guildford Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association, which has two excellent motor ambulances in use, largely for conveying patients to the County Hospital, Guildford.

## (6) **Laboratory Work.**

Fifty-four swabs from suspicious cases of Diphtheria sent by Medical Practitioners, or taken by myself in the course of investigating the origin of notified cases, were examined by me during the year, as compared with 28 in 1922; also eleven specimens of sputum from suspected cases

of Tuberculosis, sent by Medical Practitioners, as against eleven in 1922.

Seventy-one samples of water or effluents were examined in the Council's laboratory, as compared with sixty in the previous year.

Eighteen samples of water from the mains of the Public Water Companies were examined bacteriologically or chemically (or both).

Seven samples of well water and three of rain water supplies were examined with a view to granting water certificates, and four of well water from dairy farms applying for Registration. Fourteen other samples of well water and six of rain water supplies were brought to the laboratory by the Inspector in consequence of complaints.

Eight samples of effluents from the Gomshall Tannery were also examined, the earlier ones being of very unsatisfactory quality, and eleven samples of river water, with a view to estimating the degree of contamination of the Tillingbourne by the tannery effluent, which had greatly improved by the autumn.

*Milk Examinations.*—With a view to improving the standard of cleanliness and purity of the milk produced in their District, the Council decided in July to submit about 50 samples per annum for examination for dirt and pus by microscopical examination and calculation of number of bacteria present, and also for the presence of Tubercl bacilli by the delicate animal inoculation test. Up to the end of the year 23 samples had been collected by the Sanitary Inspector and taken in an ice-cooled box to the Clinical Research Association for examination. The temperature of the milk, however, on arrival, varied considerably, which greatly affects the bacterial counts, as the germs grow in milk at an increasing rate as the temperature rises. Of the four batches sent in September, October, November, and December, the respective temperatures were 19 degrees, 16 degrees, 14 degrees, and 7 degrees. The results of the examinations, however, although not strictly comparable, were very satisfactory.

No Tubercl bacilli were present in any of the samples.

No less than 16 of the 23 had less than 30,000 bacteria

per cubic centimetre, which is the maximum number allowed in "Certified Milk."

Five had between 30,000 and 100,000.

Two had between 100,000 and 200,000.

Every one of the samples, therefore, came within the standard of cleanliness of "Grade A milk."

A still better test of cleanliness is the absence of *Bacillus Coli*, which is present in large numbers in cow dung.

In 10 samples it was absent from 1/10th cubic centimetre.

In 5	"	"	"	1/100th	"	"
In 1	"	"	present in	1/10th	"	"
In 5	"	"	"	1/100th	"	"
In 2	"	"	"	1/1000th	"	"

(a cubic centimetre is equal to about 20 drops).

By this test also the samples submitted came out very satisfactorily. 15 of the 23 came up to the standard of Certified Milk (no *Bacillus Coli* in one-tenth cubic centimetre), and 16 of the 23 up to the standard of Grade A milk (no *Bacillus Coli* in one-hundredth cubic centimetre).

It must, however, be noted that the majority of the samples were taken at the cowsheds or dairies soon after milking time, so that the milk had not been subjected to the usual contamination to which milk is exposed during transit and distribution. This would greatly affect the number of bacteria, but not, of course, the presence or absence of Tubercle bacilli.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free by the Council in necessitous cases; but, owing to the comparative freedom of the district from the infection last year, none was so supplied.

**(7) Sanitary Administration.**

*List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force in the District, with date of adoption.*

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890; December 20th, 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Part III.; December 20th, 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts IV. and X., dealing with Infectious Disease and Bathing Places, adopted July 1911; also Part IX. (Sky Signs), adopted February 1912.

Building Bye-laws are in force only in three parishes, viz., Artington and Pirbright, adopted July 28th, 1908; and Godalming Rural (part of), adopted November 26th, 1901.

The Rural code of Building Bye-laws is about to be adopted for the whole of the district, and replacing those in force above mentioned.

Bye-laws dealing with Tents, Vans, and Sheds are in force, which were adopted on October 25th, 1904.

Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops were adopted on June 30th, 1903.

Bye-laws with respect to Slaughterhouses were adopted for eight parishes on January 2nd, 1912.

**Report of Work of Sanitary Inspector under Article 19 of  
the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922. Particulars supplied  
by the Sanitary Inspector.**

*Number and Nature of Inspections, 1923.—*

Under Section 17, Housing Act, 1909	...	...	63
Complaints, Diseases, etc.	...	...	429
Re-visits to works in progress	...	...	503
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops	...	...	208
Slaughterhouses and Retail Shops	...	...	46
Bakehouses and Workshops	...	...	23
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	35
Samples of Water for Analysis	...	...	34
Section 6, Public Health (Water) Act, 1878	...	...	123
Total	...	...	1,464

*Notices.—*

Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	23
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	118
				<hr/>
				141

*Result of Notices.—*

Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	17
„ „ time not expired	...	...	...	1
„ „ works in hand	...	...	...	4
„ „ not proceeded with	...	...	...	1
Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	...	101
„ „ works proceeding	...	...	...	17
				<hr/>
				141

*Number and Condition of Slaughter-houses.*—The number of slaughter-houses in use in the District is the same as last year, viz., ten, and in addition there are five retail shops. With one exception all are supplied from slaughter-houses within the District. All have been kept under inspection during the year, none are under licence, and with one exception all are registered.

During these inspections one carcase of a pig was found to be affected with Generalised Tuberculosis; this was surrendered and destroyed. One was found with Nettlerash; the skin was removed and the carcase passed. In two other cases the organs were found unsound and were destroyed.

The requirements of Sec. 9 of the Slaughter-house Bye-laws relative to humane slaughtering have been observed and properly carried out by all butchers. As usual, I have been at once notified when any signs of disease or abnormal conditions have been found.

One slaughter-house has been reported to the Council as being unfit for use owing to age and structural defects. This is under the consideration of the General Purposes Committee at the close of the year.

*Action under Dairies Act and Orders.*—The number of persons registered is 137, 69 being cowkeepers and retailers respectively, 62 cowkeepers, and 6 are purveyors, the total being 11 over the previous year.

In July last the Council resolved that about 50 samples of milk be taken per year and submitted to the Clinical Research Association for microscopical and bacteriological examination for the detection of dirt and excess of bacteria, including the presence of Tubercl bacilli by animal inoculation, and that a communication be addressed to other Local Authorities in the County, informing them of the action of this Council, and suggesting that, in order to secure uniformity as far as practicable, similar action be taken (if not already done) throughout the Rural Districts in the County

of Surrey. Some favourable replies were received and others are considering the matter.

In June last a report was received from the Borough of Guildford to the effect that a sample which had been taken from a purveyor in the town, and which was produced in the District, was infected with Tubercle bacilli. I then instructed the Council's Veterinary Surgeon to examine the herd, and as a result three cows were isolated, and the milk not used for human consumption. These three have since been dried off and disposed of.

No applications have been received for distributor's licences during the year under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1922. One dairy continues to supply "Certified" milk under licence from the Ministry of Health.

The clean milk competition in connection with the Surrey County Council is being taken up by several of the dairymen, with good results.

One application was received for registration as a cow-keeper, but upon inspection the premises were found in all respects unfit for the production of milk, and the application was withdrawn.

*Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfestation.*—The arrangements for disinfection are that all bedding and clothing, etc., is removed and disinfected by steam at the Isolation Hospital. The rooms are then sprayed with a dilute solution of formaldehyde, and detailed instructions are given for a thorough cleansing and washing. The premises are then inspected for any defects or nuisances from drainage, etc.

Advice has been given to owners and occupiers for ridding houses of vermin, and disinfestation.

AMOS D. SHRIVES.

*Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, etc.*—These Acts are administered by the County Council in this area, but the County Medical Officer has supplied me with particulars of the samples taken during 1923.

		Number of Samples.	Adulterated.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.
Milk	...	46	5	2	2
Butter (informal)	...	3	—	—	—
Flour (informal)	...	2	2	—	—
Lard (informal)	...	1	—	—	—
Confectionery and Jam (informal)	...	2	—	—	—
Other Articles (informal)	4	—	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
(12 informal)	58	7	2	2	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The number of samples taken in the District last year was largely in excess of the number submitted in 1922, viz., 18.

#### (8) Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health—R. W. C. Pierce, M.D., B.Sc. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.), who holds other Public Health appointments.

Sanitary Inspector—A. D. Shives, Assoc. R. San. I., Special Certificate in Meat Inspection.

Mr. Shives acts also as Petroleum Inspector for the Council, and also as Supervisor and Rent Collector for the 92 cottages built by the Council.

## (9) Housing.

Number of new Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
(b) With State assistance—							
By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

I. *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	119
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	63
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	4
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	44

II. *Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	41
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III. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919	...	...	Nil
B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts—			
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—			
(a) by owners	...	...	22
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the  
Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ...	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ...	5
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ...	Nil

**Rainfall in 1923.**

Records taken by HERBERT A. POWELL, Esq.,  
Pilgrim Wood, near Guildford, 330 feet above sea level.

Month.	Total Depth.		Greatest Fall in 24 hours.	Number of days		
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.	with 0.1 in.	0.4 in. or more.	
January ...	... 1.41	.45	6	10		8
February ...	... 4.77	1.33	7	24		21
March ...	... 2.94	.98	20	16		11
April ...	... 2.38	.60	12	12		12
May ...	... 2.60	.92	29	12		9
June ...	... .34	.21	15	8		1
July ...	... 1.75	.57	9	12		9
August ...	... 2.15	.50	27	9		9
September ...	... 1.52	.45	14	10		9
October ...	... 6.38	.94	3	20		19
November ...	... 1.68	.50	13	11		9
December ...	... 2.57	.40	25	17		15
Total ...	30.49			161		132